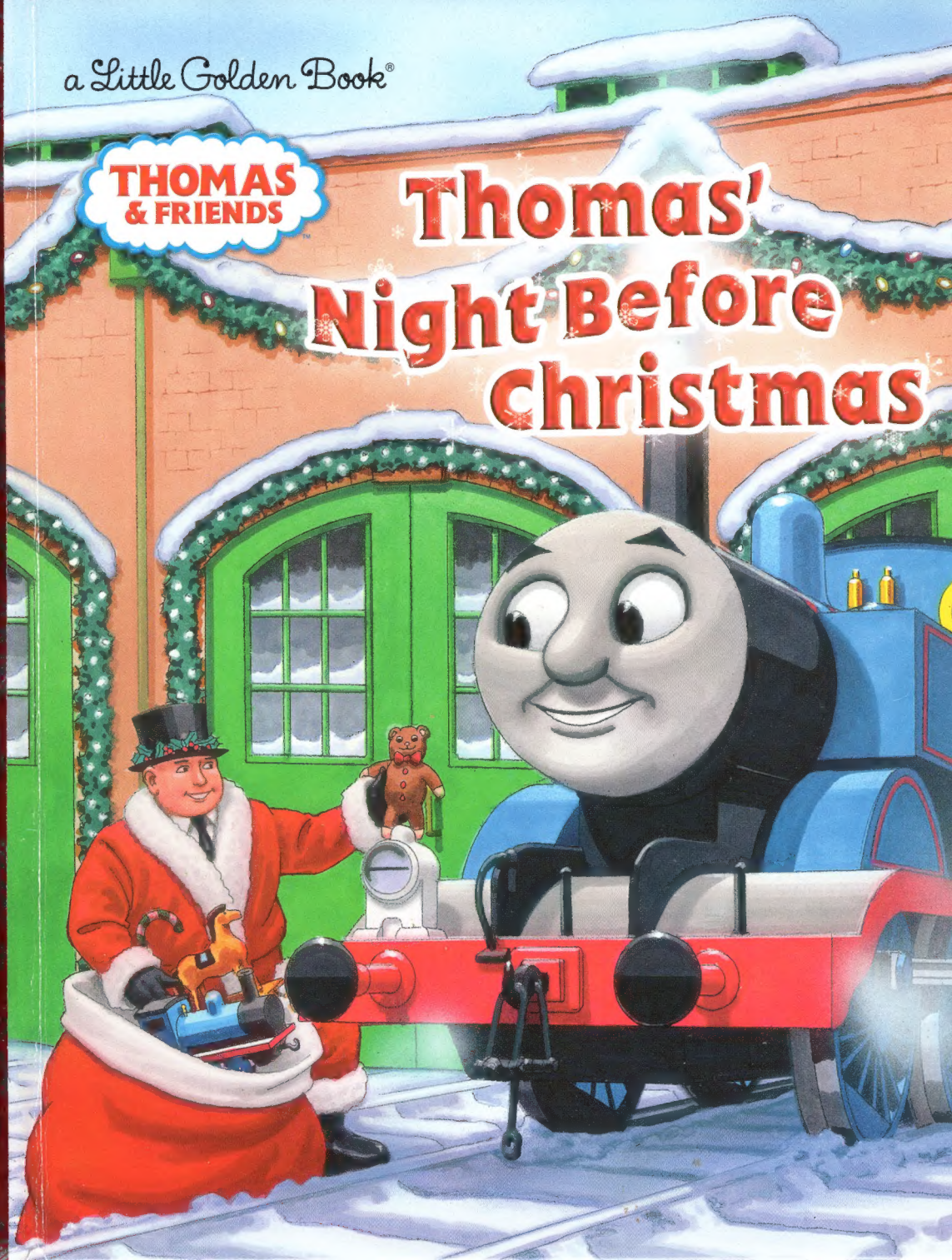
a Little Golden Book®



Thomas' Night Before Christmas

Little Golden Books
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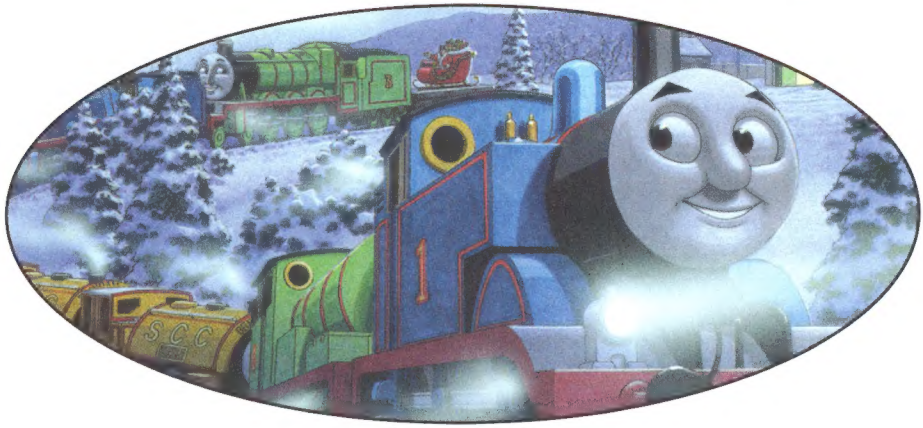
THOMAS & FRIENDS™

Thomas' Night Before Christmas



By R. Schuyler Hooke
Illustrated by Richard Courtney

A GOLDEN BOOK • NEW YORK

CREATED BY BRITT ALLCROFT
Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends™

Based on The Railway Series by The Reverend W Awdry.
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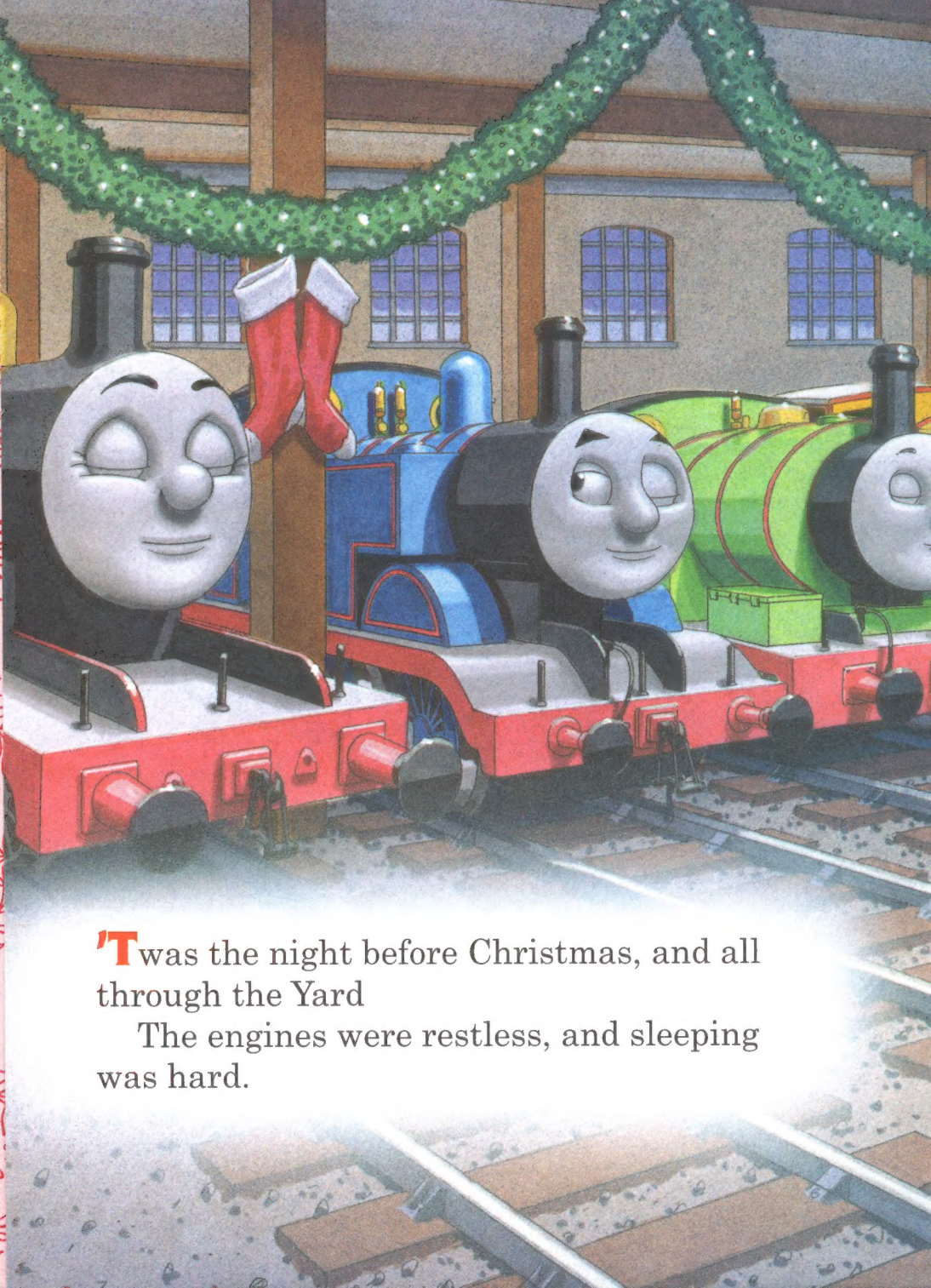
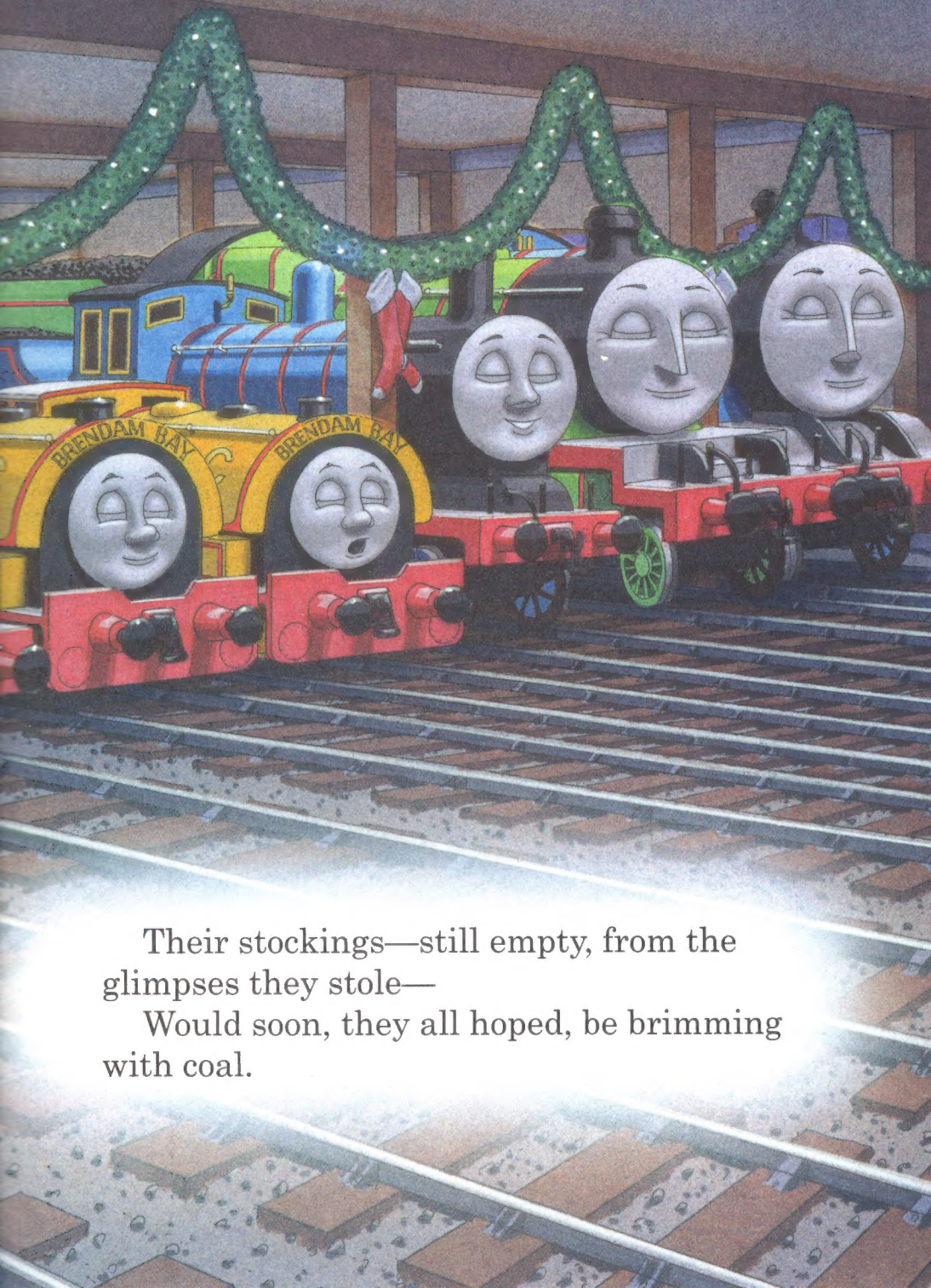


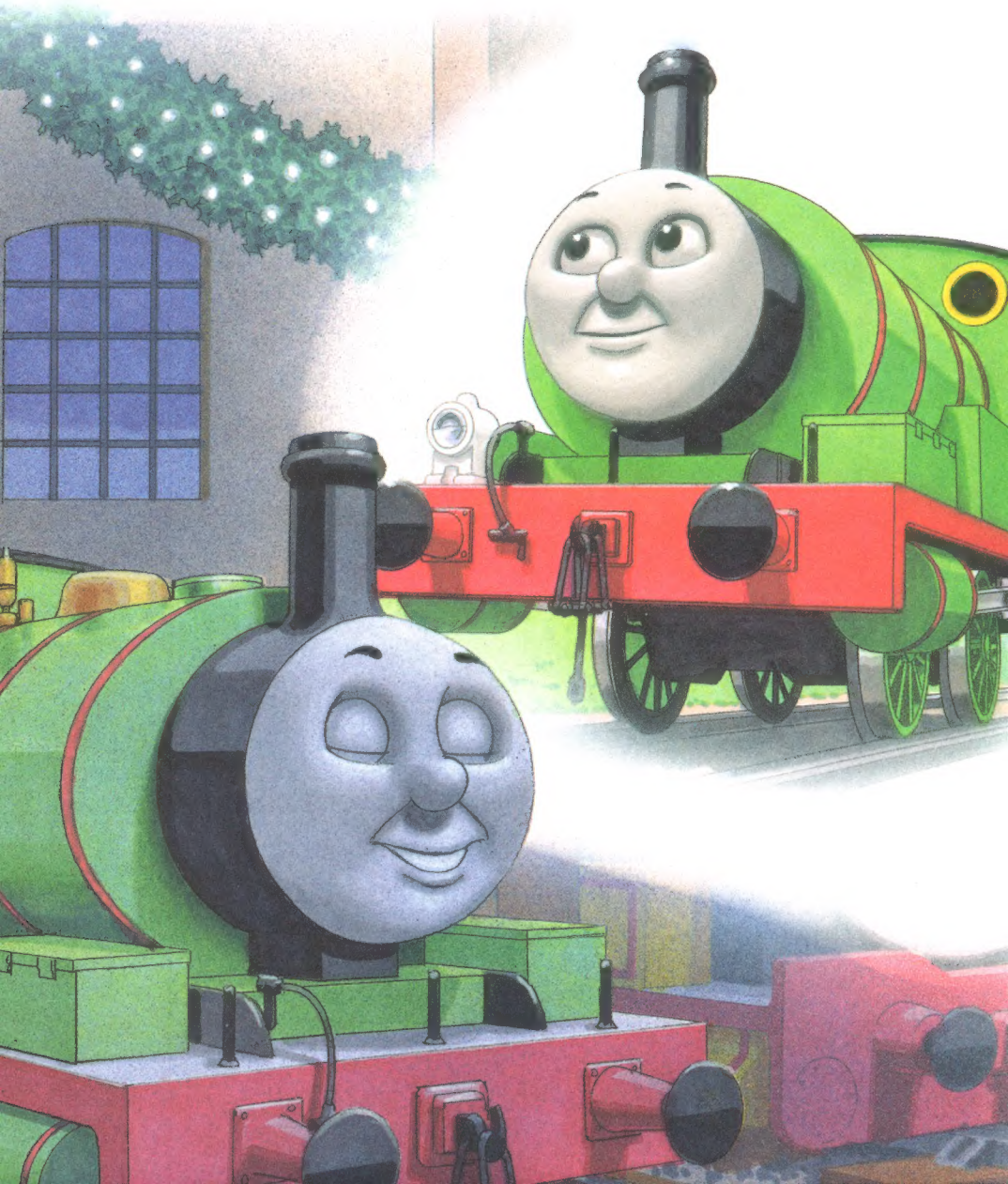
'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the Yard
The engines were restless, and sleeping was hard.



Their stockings—still empty, from the glimpses they stole—

Would soon, they all hoped, be brimming with coal.

Percy was dreaming (his smile, it was bright)
Of a shiny new headlamp to guide him at night.

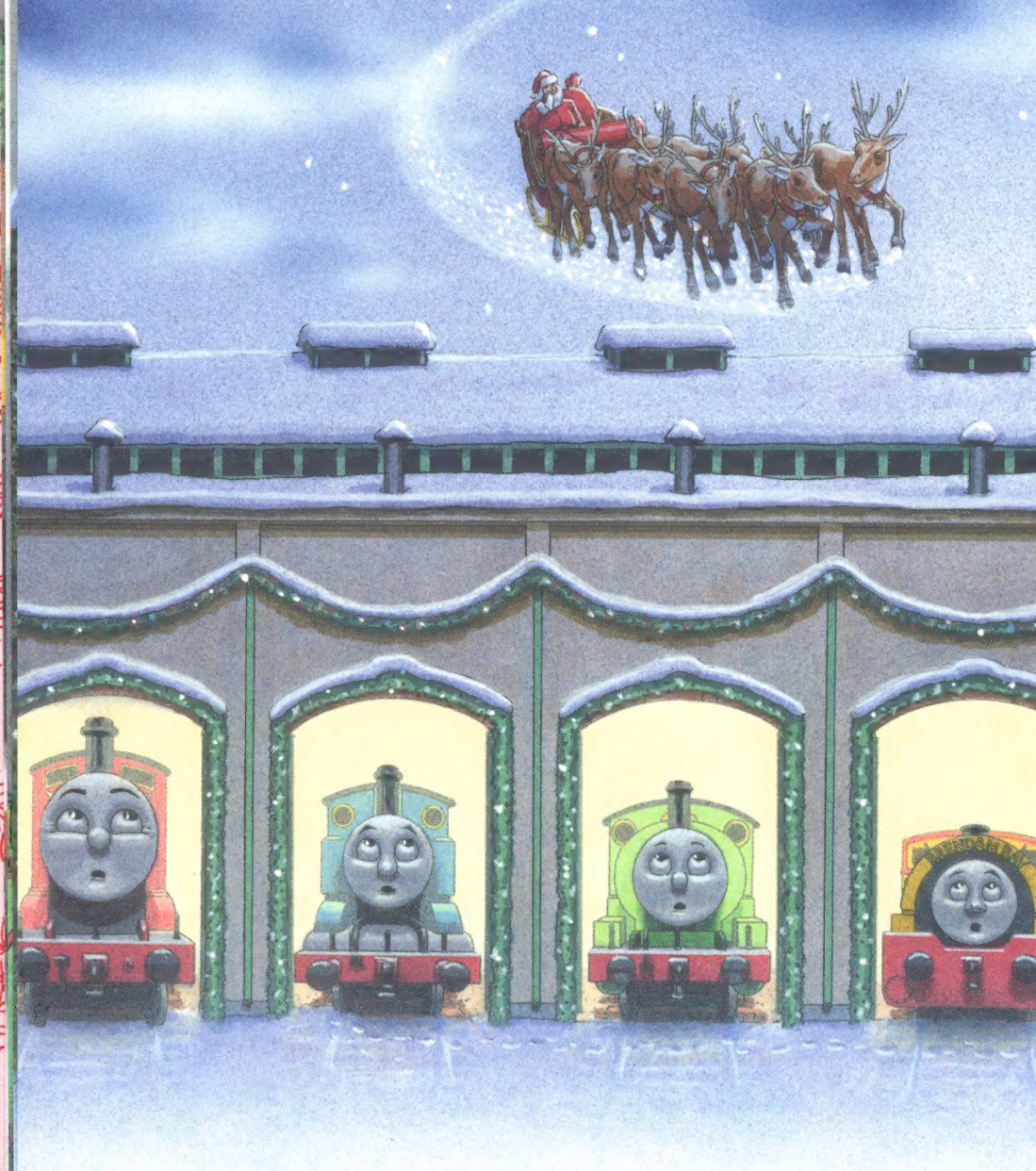


Even Sir Topham had stayed in the Shed
With thoughts of Christmas awhirl in
his head.

Then, out in the Yard, there arose such a clatter!

Soon all were awake to see what was the matter.

Out rolled the engines on the rails in the floor
As Sir Topham himself threw open the door.



The moon shining bright on the new-fallen snow
Made night seem like day to the engines below.

And what to nine pairs of eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer.

And the little old driver—who was surely St. Nick—
He didn't look well. In fact, he looked sick.

His reindeer were gliding but seemed to be slow,

And the driver mumbled the names that we know:

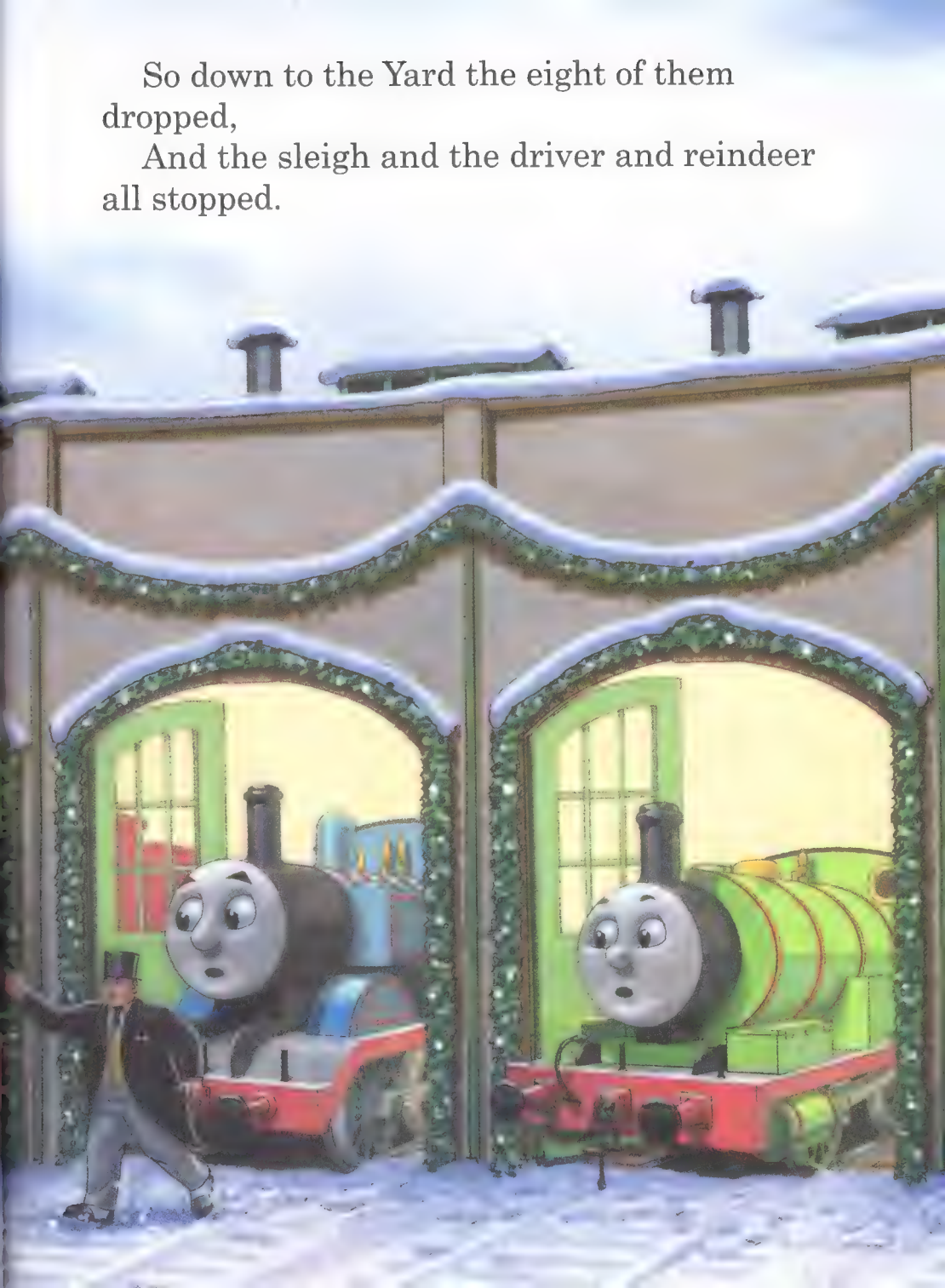
"Now, Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer and Vixen . . .

This old elf has the flu. . . . Oh, my! I need fixin'!

To the top of the shed! To the top of the wall!

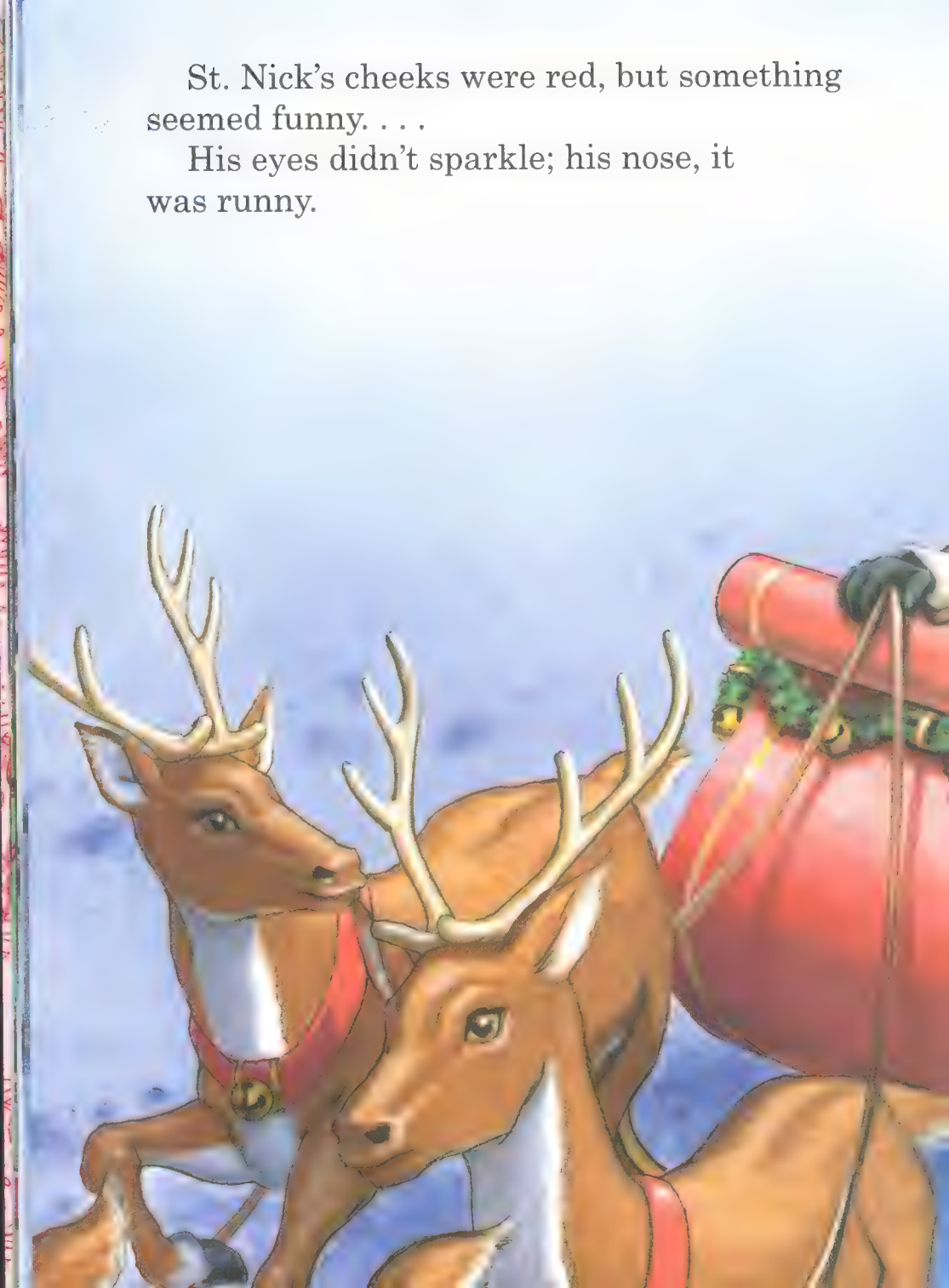
We've got to land quickly. Oh, darn! Dash it all!"

So down to the Yard the eight of them dropped,
And the sleigh and the driver and reindeer all stopped.



St. Nick's cheeks were red, but something seemed funny. . . .

His eyes didn't sparkle; his nose, it was runny.



"Sir Topham," he said, a sad look on his face,
"I cannot go on. You must take my place."

Sir Hatt shook his head. "I can't, for I fear
While I know about trains, I know nothing of deer."

"Trains are perfect," said Nick. "I'm sure they'll do fine.

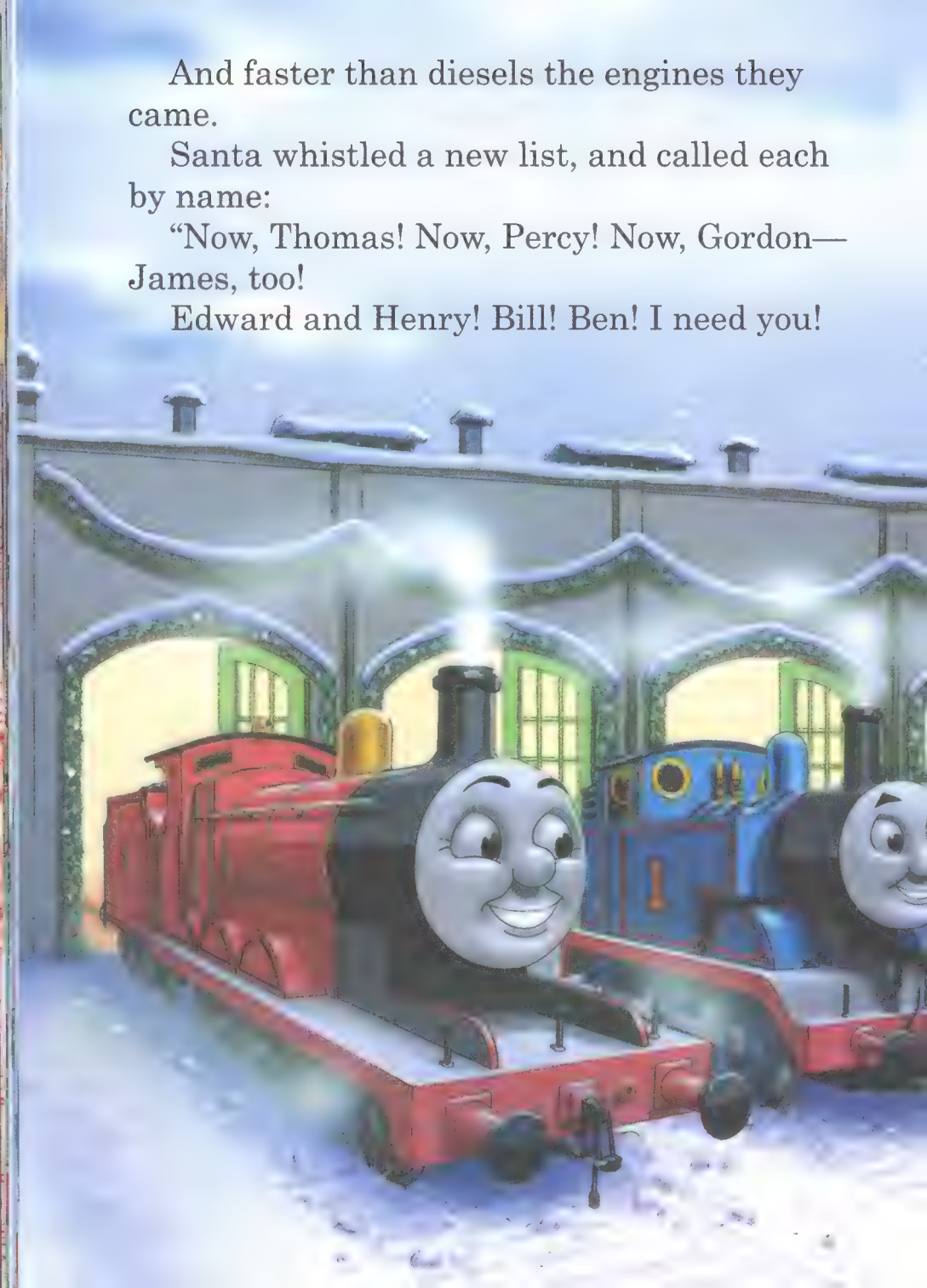
Bust your buffers, my friends, and get in a line."

And faster than diesels the engines they came.

Santa whistled a new list, and called each by name:

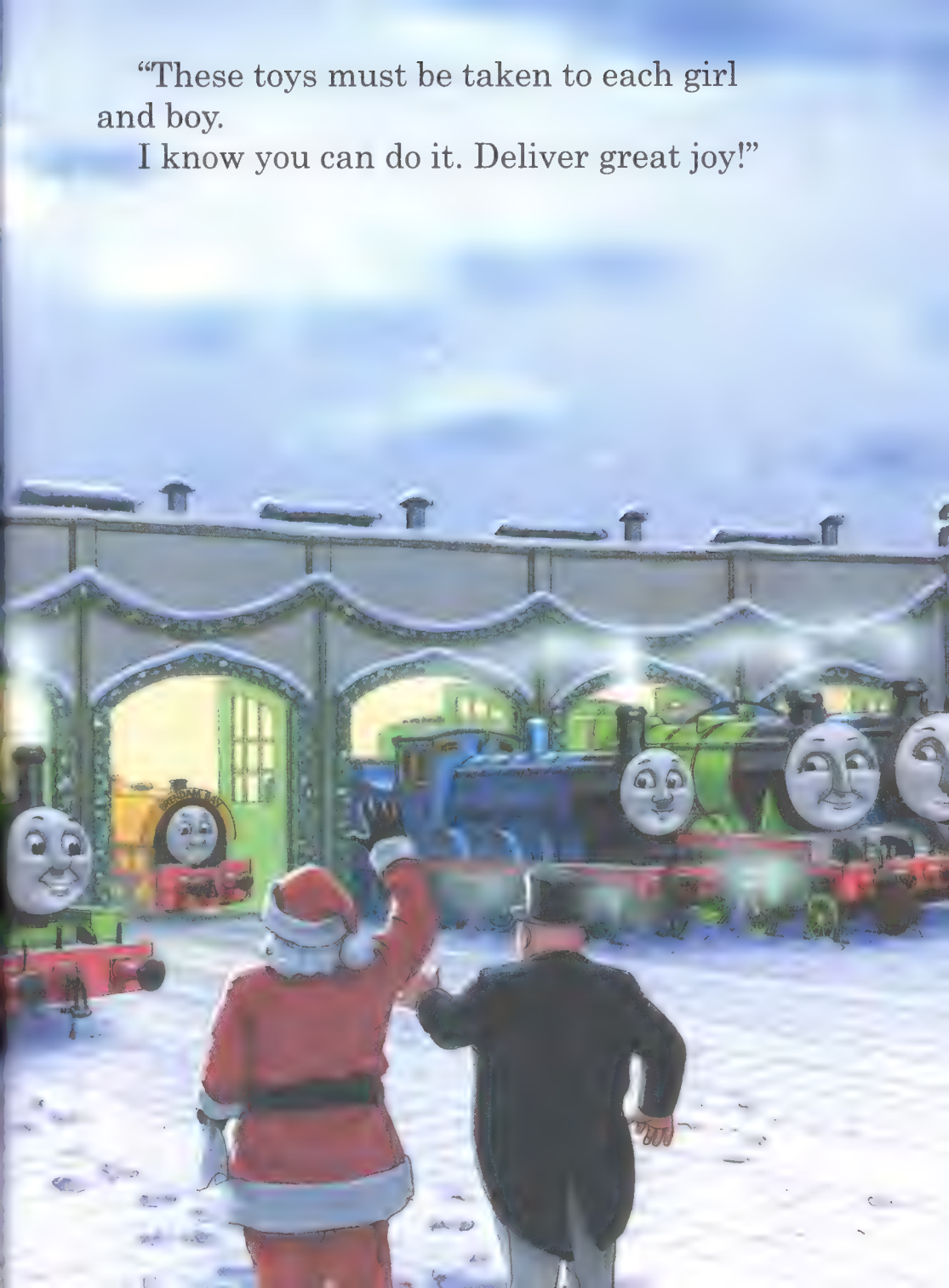
"Now, Thomas! Now, Percy! Now, Gordon—James, too!

Edward and Henry! Bill! Ben! I need you!



"These toys must be taken to each girl and boy.

I know you can do it. Deliver great joy!"

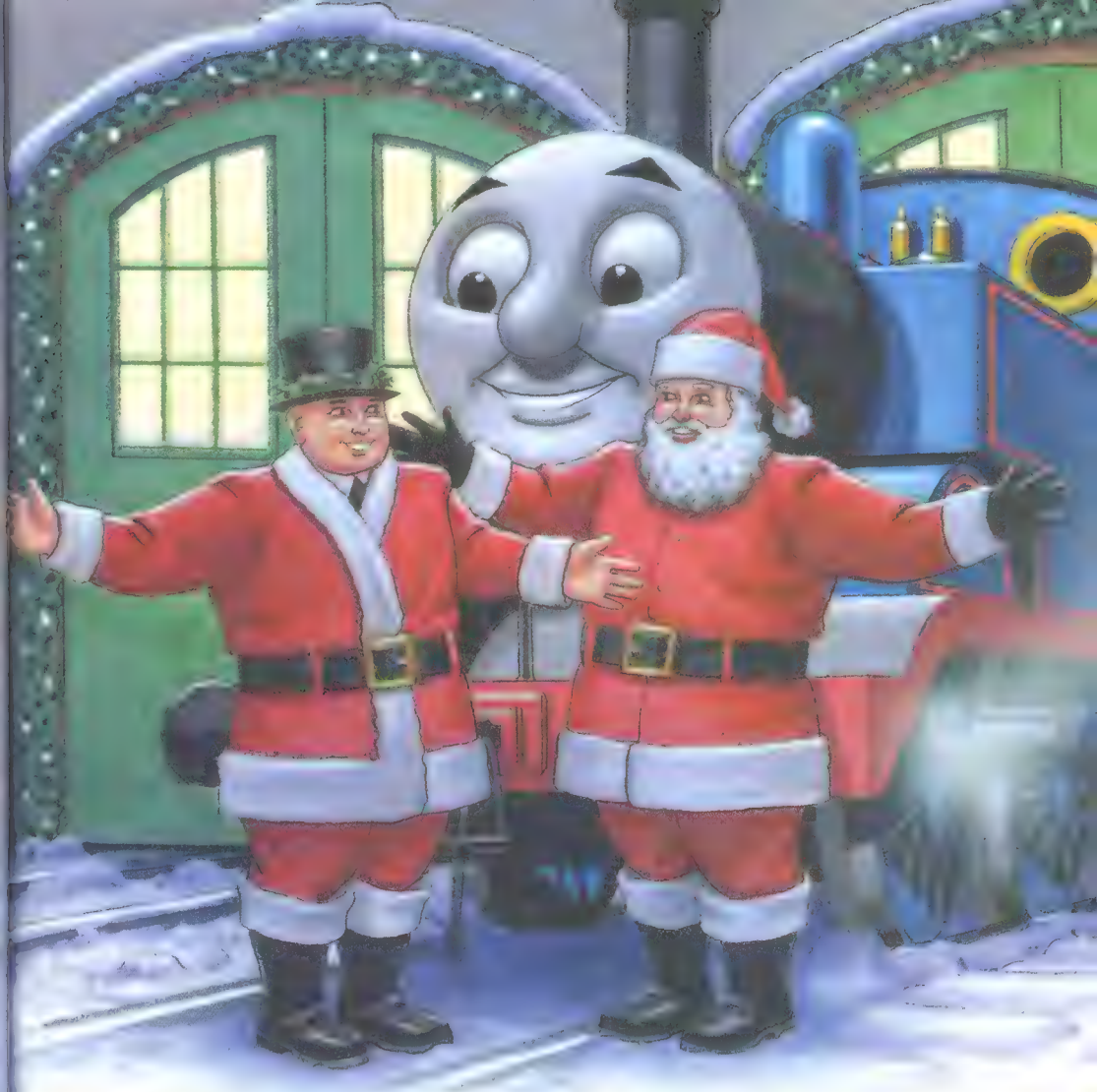


Nick turned to Sir Topham and said, "One thing more.

Your dress coat won't do—it's really a bore."

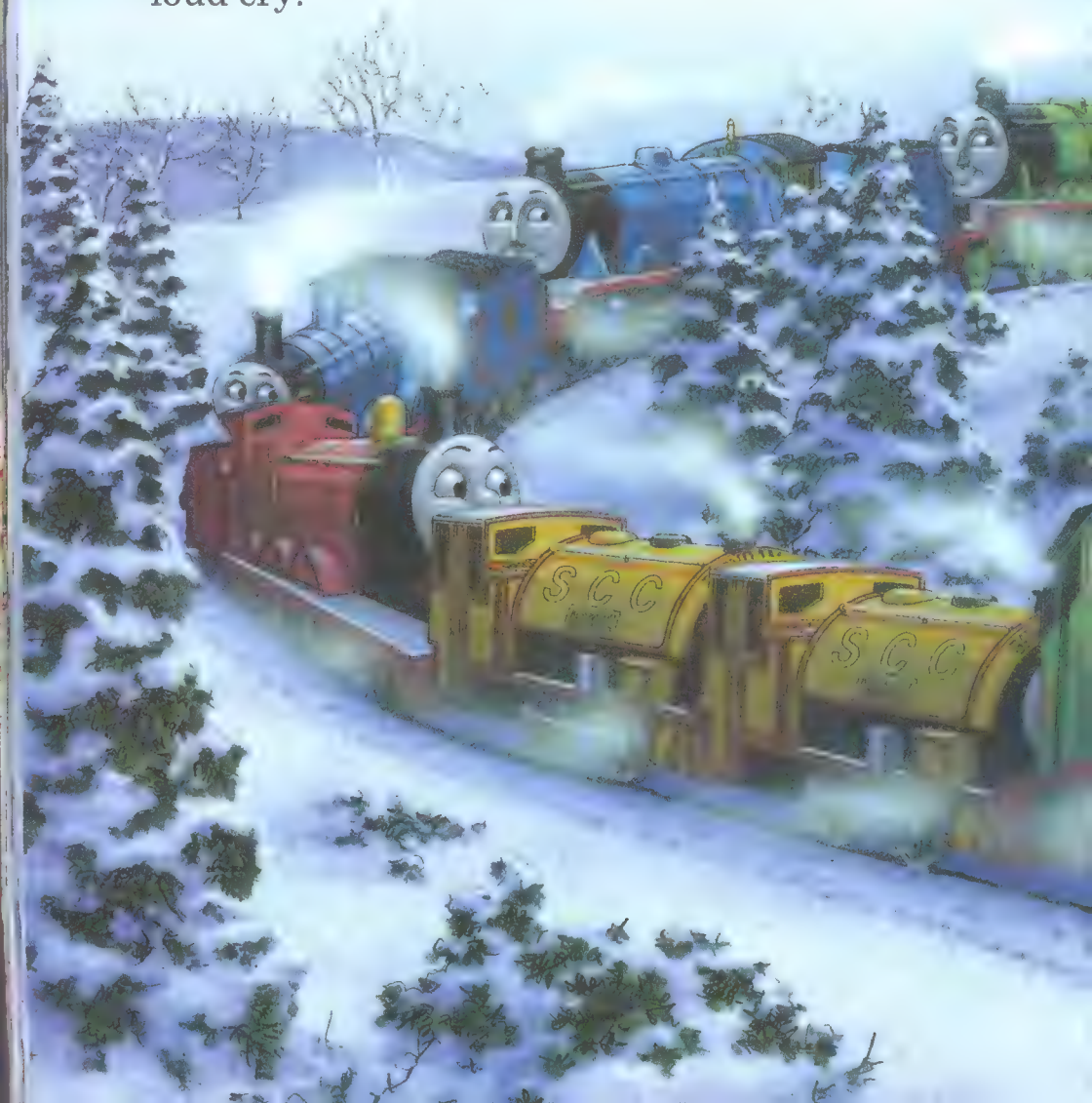
He pulled out a red one, and to no one's surprise,

That coat, it turned out to be just the right size.



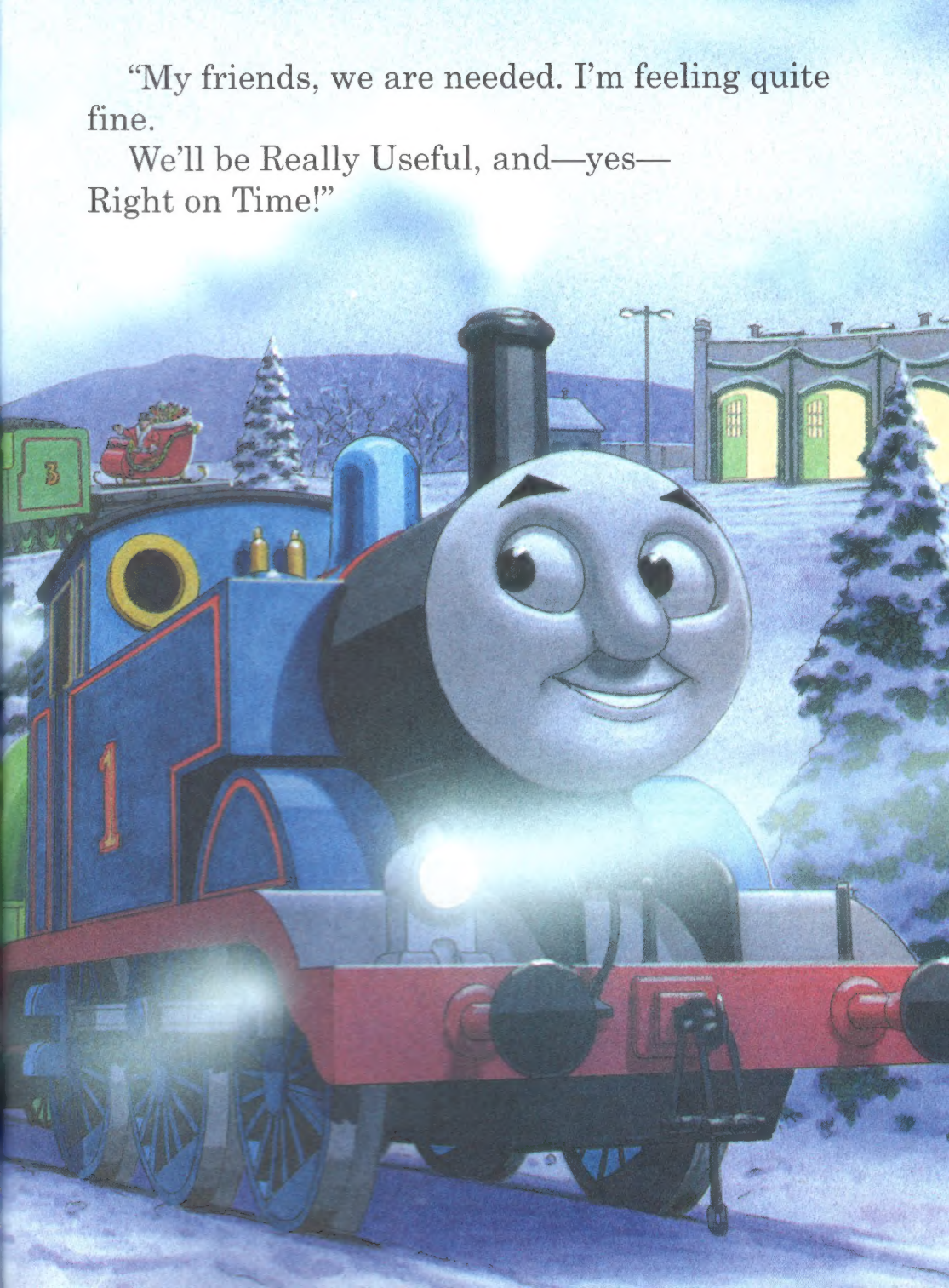
And now you would bet that St. Nick had a twin,
Except for the beard on one rounded chin.
And while Nick wore a cap trimmed with fur on his head,
Sir Topham Hatt's top hat had holly instead.

But night was still passing as children all slept,
So, giving a nod, up Sir Topham Hatt leapt.
As the engines gained speed, seeming almost to fly,
From his seat in the sleigh, Sir Hatt gave a loud cry:

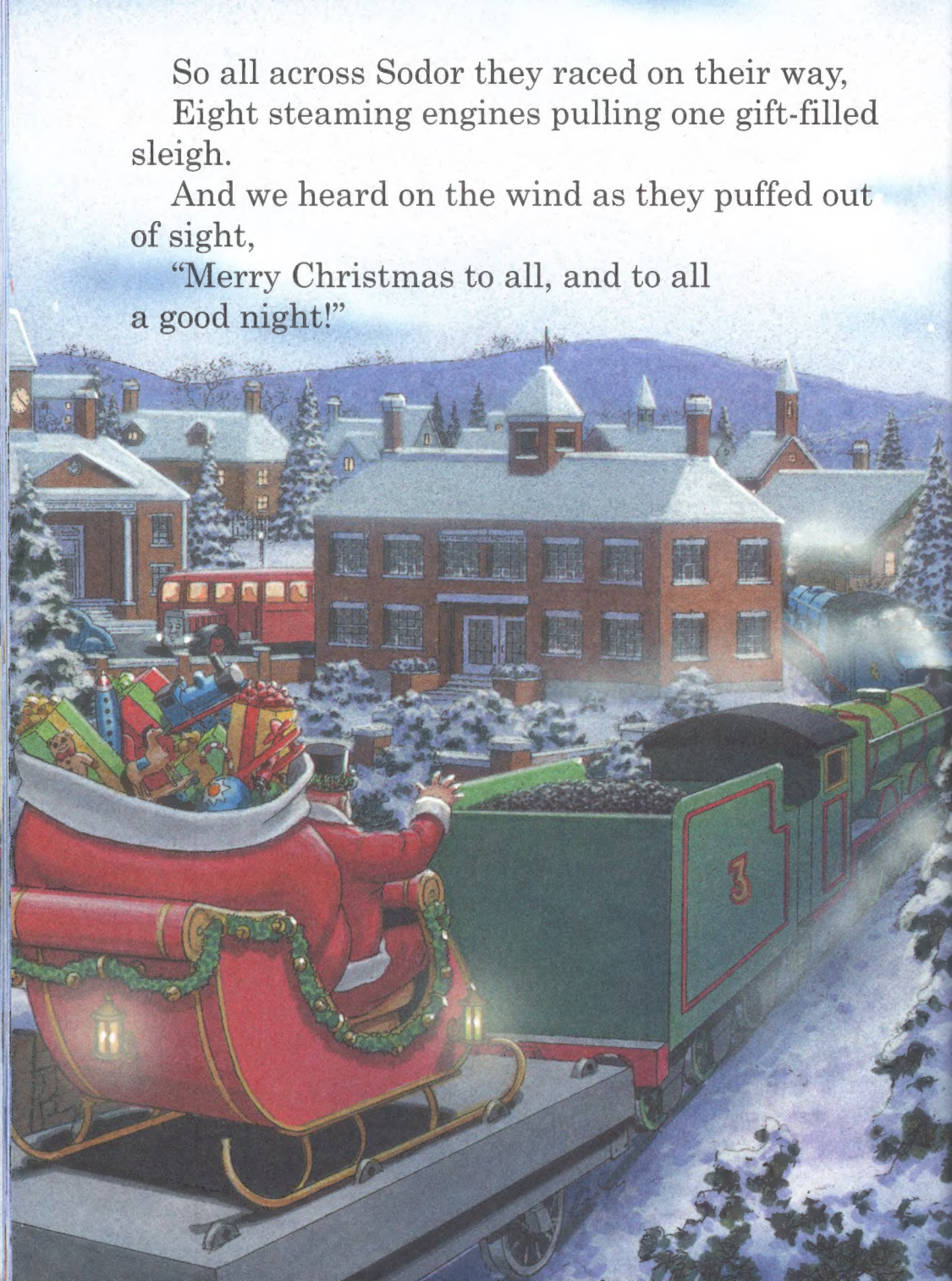


"My friends, we are needed. I'm feeling quite fine.

We'll be Really Useful, and—yes—
Right on Time!"



So all across Sodor they raced on their way,
Eight steaming engines pulling one gift-filled sleigh.
And we heard on the wind as they puffed out of sight,
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all
a good night!"



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Baby's House
The Color Kittens
Daddies
A Day at the Seashore
Doctor Dan
The Fire Engine Book
The Friendly Book
The Happy Man and His Dump Truck
Home for a Bunny
I Can Fly
The Jolly Barnyard
The Kitten Who Thought He Was a Mouse
The Little Red Caboose
The Little Red Hen
The Merry Shipwreck
Mister Dog
Mr. Noah and His Family
The Poky Little Puppy
Puss in Boots
Richard Scarry's Chipmunk's ABC**
Richard Scarry's Good Night, Little Bear**
The Saggy Baggy Elephant
Scuffy the Tugboat
Seven Little Postmen
The Shy Little Kitten
Tawny Scrawny Lion
The Three Bears
Tootle
Wonders of Nature

Favorite Characters:
Barbie: A Fashion Fairytale[€]
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Barbie: Princess Charm School[€]
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The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That!: A Very Crabby Christmas[∞]
Dinosaur Train: Triceratops for Lunch[±]
Disney's Beauty and the Beast[‡]
Disney's Cinderella[‡]
Disney's Lady and the Tramp[‡]
Disney's The Lion King[‡]
Disney's The Little Mermaid[‡]
Disney's Tinker Bell[‡]
Disney/Pixar: The Pet Problem[Δ]
Disney/Pixar: A Roaring Adventure[Δ]
Disney/Pixar: Toy Story 3[Δ]
Dora the Explorer: The Big Ballet Show[+]
Dora the Explorer: Dora's Birthday Surprise![+]
Dora the Explorer: Grandma's House[+]
Sesame Street: The Monster at the End of This Book[°]
Sesame Street: The Monsters on the Bus[°]
SpongeBob SquarePants: Mr. FancyPants![+]
SpongeBob SquarePants: Top of the Class![+]
SpongeBob SquarePants: Sponge in Space![+]
Team Umizoomi: Purple Monkey Rescue[+]
Thomas & Friends: Hero of the Rails[◊]
Thomas & Friends: King of the Railway[◊]
Thomas & Friends: Misty Island Rescue[◊]

Seasonal and Holiday Stories:
The Animals' Christmas Eve
The Christmas Story
The Little Christmas Elf
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The Poky Little Puppy's First Christmas
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer[^]

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Dan Yaccarino's Mother Goose[#]
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I'm a Monster Truck
I'm a T. Rex!
I'm a Truck
Kitty's New Doll[*]
Lasso the Moon
Old MacDonald Had a Farm
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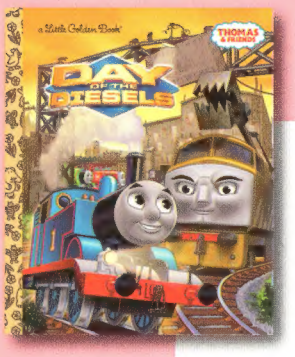

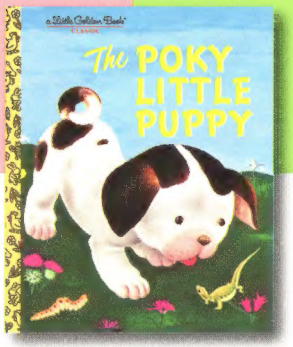

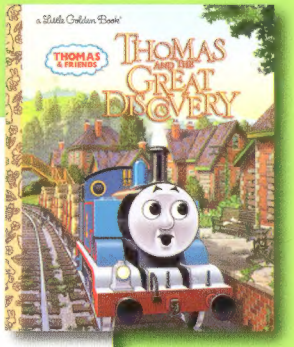

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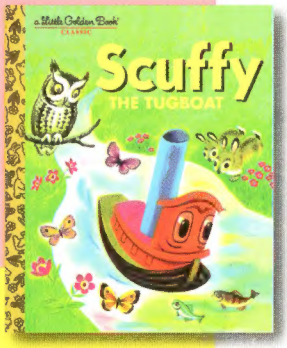
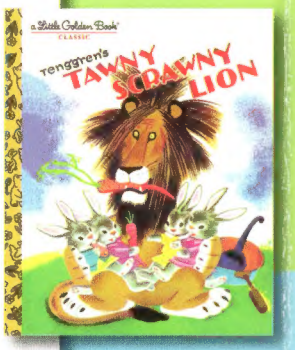
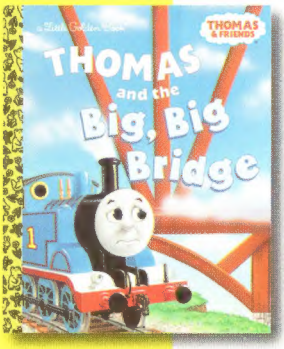
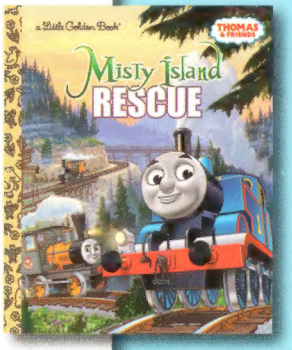
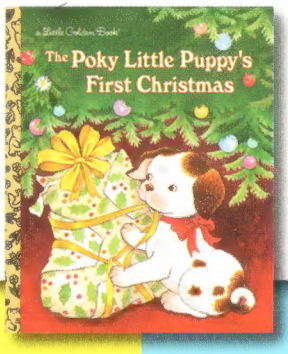
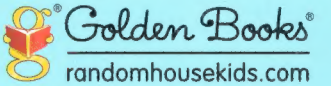
There are more than 200 timeless Little Golden Books to share. Here are just a few of them. How many have *you* read?







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